

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in this application and, as pending, are believed to be in condition for allowance over the cited prior art of record. As a result, only claim 21 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error and to ensure proper antecedent basis for the term "host computer". No other claims have been amended. Therefore, entry of the foregoing remarks and arguments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b).

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) because the Examiner alleges that some boxes of FIG. 1, FIG. 4 and FIGs. 6-7 fail to show text or labels. Again, as previously explained, and the Examiner has **not** responded, a complete review of these drawings indicates that all boxes in FIG. 1, FIG. 4 and FIGs. 6-7 do contain either text or labels as required under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a). As a result, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

More importantly, claims 1-28 have been rejected under 37 C.F.R. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sweet et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,415,278, as modified to incorporate the features of Warnock, U.S. Patent No. 5,634,064 for reasons stated on pages 2-8 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7). Again, the Examiner repeats the same rationale verbatim from the first Office Action (Paper No. 5), that is, Sweet '278, as a primary reference, discloses all features of Applicants' claims 1-28 substantially as claimed, except for the "print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic file for storage as an e-book format from the central server to the e-book server", which is allegedly disclosed on column 5, lines 51-62 of Warnock, U.S. Patent No. 5,634,064 in order to arrive at Applicants' claims 1-28. Again, these assertions are factually incorrect and legally improper, since neither

Sweet '278 nor Warnock '064 discloses what the Examiner alleges. As a result, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for reasons discussed herein below.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants' disclosed invention is intended to address the problem, as identified, for example, on page 3, lines 9-12 of Applicants' disclosure:

"there is a need an improved electronic book system for advancing distribution of electronic reading material using an electronic book (e-book) server at different locations over different data networks in order to improve data access efficiency at the e-book server using an e-book or similar viewing device"

The solution is described in general on page 3, line 14 extending to page 4, line 12 of Applicants' disclosure as follows:

"Accordingly, various embodiments of the present invention are directed t0o an improved electronic book (e-book) system for advancing distribution of electronic reading materials using an electronic book (e-book) server at different locations over different data networks. Such an electronic book system may comprise a private network; a central server connected to the private network, which stores a collection of electronic documents; an e-book server which stores an electronic document selected from the central server converted in an e-book format for later downloading to a remote e-book terminal, via a public network; and a host computer connected to the private network, which selects the electronic document from the central server, and uses a print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic document from the central server for storage in an e-book format at the e-book server for later downloading to a remote e-book terminal, via the public network.

The host computer may contain an e-book driver software and an emulation software installed therein to provide an interface with the operating system, direct the selected electronic document to the e-book server, and emulate the e-book server as a network printer in the private network. The emulation software includes a conversion subroutine for converting data reflecting the selected electronic document into an e-book format for storage at the

e-book server. Both the e-book driver software and the emulation software may be embodied on any of a variety of computer readable media for use with the host computer.

In other words, Applicants' disclosed invention relates to the distribution of electronic reading materials by introducing a dedicated e-book server that is capable of storing user selected in response of user "printing" the documents to e-book server destination for later reading.

Specifically, Applicants' base claim 1 defines an electronic book (e-book) system, comprising:

- a private network;
- a central server connected to said private network, which stores a collection of electronic documents;
- an e-book server** which stores an electronic document selected from said central server converted in an e-book format for later downloading to **a remote e-book terminal**, via a public network; and
- a host computer** connected to said private network, which selects the electronic document from said central server, and uses a print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic document from said central server for storage in an e-book format at said e-book server for later downloading to said remote e-book terminal, via said public network.

Alternatively, Applicants' base claim 13 defines an electronic book (e-book) system comprising:

- a private network;
- a central server connected to said private network, which stores a collection of electronic documents;
- a docking station** connected to said private network, which supports **an e-book terminal** to receive an electronic document selected from said central server converted in an e-book format for later viewing off-line; and
- a computer** connected to said private network, which selects the electronic document from said central server, and uses a print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic document from said central server in an e-book format to said docking station for downloading into said e-book terminal for later viewing off-line.

As defined in Applicants' base claims 1 and 13, electronic documents (materials) can be advantageously distributed using an e-book server (or docking station supporting an e-book terminal) at different locations over different data networks, such as a private network and a public network, in order to improve data access efficiency at the e-book server using an e-book terminal or similar viewing device.

Likewise, independent claim 21 defines an electronic book (e-book) system, comprising:

- a first network;
- a second network different from said first network;
- a remote e-book terminal;
- a host terminal [sic, host computer];
- a central server connected to said first network, which stores a collection of electronic documents; and
- an e-book server which stores an electronic document selected from said central server converted in an e-book format for later downloading to said remote e-book terminal, via said second network, wherein said host computer connected to first network, and having an e-book driver software installed therein to provide an interface with an operating system (OS) and to direct a selected electronic document from said central server to said e-book server, and an emulation software installed therein to emulate said e-book server as a token network printer in said first network, when a print function of the operating system (OS) is activated to transfer the selected electronic document from said central server for storage in an e-book format at said e-book server for later downloading to said remote e-book terminal, via said second network.

As expressly defined in Applicants' base claim 21, the e-book system comprises several discrete elements arranged in a very specific configuration to obtain new functionalities that are **not** described or suggested anywhere in the Examiner's proposed combination of Sweet '287 and Warnock '064. Specifically, the e-book system comprises a first network; a second network different from the first

network, a remote e-book terminal; a host terminal; a central server connected to the first network, which stores a collection of electronic documents; and an e-book server. The host terminal is then connected to the first network, and is provided with an e-book driver software installed therein to provide an interface with an operating system (OS) and to direct a selected electronic document from the central server to the e-book server, and an emulation software installed therein to emulate the e-book server as a token network printer in the first network, when a print function of the operating system (OS) is activated to transfer the selected electronic document from the central server for storage in an e-book format at the e-book server for later downloading to the remote e-book terminal, via the second network.

In contrast to the e-book system of Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21, Sweet '278, as a primary reference assigned to Adobe System Incorporated, only discloses a technique of capturing hypertext (known as "HTML") web pages for convenient viewing, via an Internet. Since most visual display data on the web are stored as sets of linked HTML documents, Sweet '278 proposes that such visual display data be converted and stored as a single document, having a fixed page size, using a physical markup language such as the portable document format (PDF) as described by Adobe System. This is done by calculating minimum dimensions required to display all screen objects within the document at their normal size, creating a physical markup representation and scaling the same based on the calculations. As a result, web pages can be converted to a format having fixed page dimensions.

Specifically, in FIG. 11, Sweet '278 shows the manner in which a client software, in a form of plug-in modules or OS extensions, is installed at a user host

computer 100, in order to enable the user to retrieve HTML web pages from a web server 140 and convert the retrieved HTML web page(s) into a single PDF document, using a web page integrator 135, for a visual display on a monitor 140, using a PDF viewer 120.

Sweet '278 does **not** disclose or suggest anything that is remotely resemble to Applicants' claimed "electronic book system for advancing distribution of electronic reading material using an electronic book (e-book) server at different locations over different data networks (i.e., private network and public network) in order to improve data access efficiency at the e-book server using an e-book or similar viewing device" as generally defined in each of Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21.

Nevertheless, on page 3 of the Office Action (Paper No. 5), the Examiner cites element 100, FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 to correspond to Applicants' claimed "e-book server". However, this citation is misplaced. Element 100, as shown in FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 does **not** correspond to Applicants' claimed "e-book server". Rather, such an element 100, FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 corresponds to a host computer used to store the Adobe software, such as a Browser 110 used to access the web, a web page integrator 135 used to convert retrieved HTML web page(s) into a single PDF document, and a PDF viewer 120 used to allow the user to view the single PDF document on a display monitor 104.

The Examiner further cites element 140, FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 to correspond to Applicants' claimed "host computer". Again, this citation is misplaced. Element 140, as shown in FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 does **not** correspond to Applicants' claimed "host computer". Rather, such an element 140, FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 corresponds to a web server used to store web pages at a web page database 142.

Likewise, the Examiner further cites column 8, lines 24-44 of Sweet '278 to correspond to Applicants' claimed "remote e-book terminal". Again, this citation is misplaced. The cited column 8, lines 24-44 of Sweet '278 simply refers to the use of a web page integrator 135 used to convert retrieved HTML web page(s) into a single PDF document, and a PDF viewer 120 used to allow the user to view the single PDF document on a display monitor 104. No disclosure of any "remote e-book terminal" nor any conversion of a selected electronic document into an e-book format for later downloading to a remote e-book terminal is disclosed.

As a secondary reference, Warnock '064 does **not** remedy the noted deficiencies of Sweet '278 in order to arrive at Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21. This is because Warnock '064 is only cited for allegedly disclosing, on column 5, lines 51-56, the feature, "print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic file for storage as an e-book format from the central server to the e-book server". Even then, column 5, lines 51-56 of Warnock '064 does **not** disclose what the Examiner alleges. Specifically, on column 5, lines 51-56, Warnock '064 only describes that,

"it should be noted that the PDF document 76 has the formatting and appearance of the originally created document 74 [of FIG. 3A] after the document 74 has been printed. In fact, in the present invention, the PDF article 76 is created by a printer driver accessed by the software which created the original document."

As can be seen, there is **no** disclosure of any "print function of an operating system to transfer the selected electronic file for storage as an e-book format from the central server to the e-book server" as incorrectly alleged by the Examiner.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, the Examiner must show that the prior art reference (or references when combined)

must teach or suggest all the claim limitations, and that there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skilled in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings, provided with a reasonable expectation of success. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and **not** based on Applicants' disclosure. In re Vaeck, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See MPEP 2143. In other words, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention, absent some teaching, suggestion or incentive supporting the combination." ACS Hospital System, Inc v. Montefiore Hospital, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 USPQ 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). The Examiner must point to something in the prior art that suggests in some way a modification of a particular reference or a combination of references in order to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention. Absent such a showing, the Examiner has improperly used Applicants' disclosure as an instruction book on how to reconstruct to the prior art to arrive at Applicants' claimed invention. Moreover, any deficiencies of the cited references cannot be remedied by general conclusions about what is "basic knowledge" or "common sense". In re Sang Su Lee, No. 00-1158 (Fed. Cir. 2002).

In the present situation, both Sweet '278 and Warnock '064 fail to disclose and suggest all key features of Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21, including the specific arrangement of a first network, a second network different from the first network, a remote e-book terminal, a host terminal, a central server connected to the

first network to store a collection of electronic documents, and an e-book server to store those electronic documents in an e-book format. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21 and their respective dependent claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-28 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-28 which depend from base claims 1, 13 and 21, are deemed patentable from base claims 1, 13 and 21 if their base claims 1, 13 and 21 are patentable. Hartness Int'l, Inc., v. Simplicatic Eng'g Co., 891 F.2d 1100, 1108, 2 USPQ2d 1826, 1831 (Fed. Cir. 1987); In re Abele, 684 F.2d 909, 214 USPQ 682, 689 (CCPA 1982) *see also* In re Sernaker, 702 F.2d 989, 991, 217 USPQ 1, 3 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Even assuming *arguendo* that independent claims 1, 13 and 21 are not patentable under 35 U.S.C. §103, which Applicants do not believe, claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-28 are separately patentable from parent claims 1, 13 and 21 for reasons presented herein below.

For example, dependent claims 2 and 14 further define that host computer comprises "an e-book driver software to provide an interface with said operating system and to direct the selected electronic document to said e-book server, and an emulation software to emulate said e-book server as a token network printer in said private network." Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 3, 15 and 23 further define that the e-book driver software is installed at the "host computer using an Add Printer Wizard provided by the operating system for setting up said e-book server as a token network printer in said private network to print from the operating system of said host computer." Again, this feature is neither

disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 4, 16 and 24 further define that the "emulation software is installed at one of said host computer and said e-book server to emulate said e-book server as a token network printer in said private network, and includes a conversion subroutine for converting data reflecting the selected electronic document into an e-book format for storage at said e-book server." Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 5, 17 and 25 further define that the "e-book driver software" and the "emulation software are embodied on any of a variety of computer readable media for use with said host computer." Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claim 6, 18 and 24 further define that the "emulation software installed at said host computer emulates said e-book server as a token network printer and then converts the selected electronic document into an e-book format, via said conversion subroutine, before a physical redirection to said e-book server over said private network." Again, this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 7 and 26 further define that the "emulation software installed at said host computer emulates said e-book server as a token network printer and then converts the selected electronic document into an e-book format transferred from said host computer to said e-book server, via said conversion subroutine." Again,

this feature is neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 8, 19 and 27 further define that the "e-book driver software" and the "emulation software installed at said host computer interacts with the operating system to transfer the selected electronic document to said e-book server, via said private network, according to the following steps:

- activating said driver software, when a user selects said print function from the operating system;
- reading, at said driver software, data reflecting the selected electronic document from a random-access-memory;
- directing, at said driver software, data reflecting the selected electronic document to the operating system for a physical redirection to said e-book server, via said private network;
- activating said emulation software, when said driver software returns to a stand-by (idle) mode;
- receiving, at said emulation software, data reflecting the selected electronic document from said driver software, via the operating system;
- converting, at said emulation software, data reflecting the selected electronic document into an e-book format and reformatting the data for said remote e-book terminal; and
- transmitting, at said emulation software, reformatted data reflecting the selected electronic document to the operating system for said physical redirection to said e-book server, via said private network.

Again, these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Claims 10 and 28 further define that the "e-book terminal for use to download or request automatic delivery of a selected electronic document stored in said e-book format at said e-book server comprises:

- an electronic module which provides a central processing unit (CPU) to control all operations of said e-book terminal under instructions of the operating system, a BIOS read-only-memory (ROM), and a random-access-memory (RAM) which provides the primary memory space to write, store and retrieve information and program instructions used by the CPU;

- a display and a display controller which support a visual display of the selected electronic document on a display screen;
- a power unit which provides power supply to said e-book terminal;
- an updatable read-only-memory (ROM) which supports additional memory capacity;
- a communication interface which supports communications with said e-book server via said public network; and
- a security unit which provides overall security to said e-book terminal.

Again, these features are neither disclosed nor suggested by Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, and the Examiner has **not** presented any evidence to the contrary.

Nevertheless, on pages 8-10 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7) dated on October 21, 2003, the Examiner presented her rebuttals to Applicants' presentations as to why the proposed combination of Sweet '278 and Warnock '064 fails to make a *prima facie* case of obviousness, and fails to disclose or suggest all key features of Applicants' claims 1-28.

For example, on page 8 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7), and in response to Applicants' argument that Sweet '278 does **not** disclose the use of an e-book server, the Examiner argues that Sweet '275 does teach an e-book server because element 100, as shown in FIG. 11 and described on column 8, lines 32-35, integrates "the retrieved documents from the web server into a PDF file [i.e., e-book format]", and "such function implemented by the element 100 is the same function of e-book server as applicant claimed."

However, this line of argument undermines the very definition of an e-book server. Element 100, as shown in FIG. 11 and described on column 8, lines 32-35 of Sweet '278 refers to a host computer 100 that is configured to access on-line a remote Web server 140, via a communication line 102. In contrast to the host

computer or any computer systems, a server as is well known in the computer art and is expressly defined, for example, in the McGraw-Hill Illustrated Dictionary of Personal Computers, 4th Edition, is a computer or processor on a network that provides a very specific service to the network, such as, a central file [which provide a central repository of files and programs] on the network so that another computer system can access thereto. In view of such a well-known definition and a specific definition provided in Applicants' claims 1-28, an e-book server is a computer system that serves as a central file of electronic documents in an e-book format for later downloading to another computer system or terminal on the network.

The host computer 100, as shown in FIG. 11 and described on column 8, lines 32-35 of Sweet '278, is only intended to enable a user to retrieve Web pages stored at a Web server 140 in HTML languages and convert the same into a single PDF file, using a Web page integrator 135, for a visual display on a monitor 140, using a PDF viewer 120. Such a host computer 100 as described by Sweet '278 does **not** store any repository of electronic documents in an e-book format for later downloading to a remote e-book terminal or any other computer system on the network. As a result, such a host computer 100 is **not** and cannot be interpreted to read on Applicants' claimed "e-book server".

Secondly, on page 9 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7), and in response to Applicants' argument that Sweet '278 does **not** disclose the use of a host computer connected to a private network to select the electronic document from a central server in an e-book format for storage at the e-book server for later downloading to a remote e-book terminal, the Examiner asserts that,

"applicant fails to consider the teaching of Sweet for transferring the selected electronic documents from central server for storage at the

e-book server in an e-book format [col. 8, lines 27-35], such function is implemented by element 140 in Sweet's system. Thus, Sweet does teach a host computer as applicant claimed."

Again, this assertion is factually absurd and is circular in logic. There is **no** e-book server disclosed anywhere in the Sweet system. Likewise, there is **no** remote e-book terminal disclosed anywhere in the Sweet system. A remote e-book terminal 50, as shown, for example, in FIG. 1 of Applicants' disclosure and defined in Applicants' claims 1-28, refers to a portable device that a user can carry and can access an e-book server 30, via a network, in order to download selected electronic documents in an e-book format.

In contrast to Applicants' claims 1-28, element 140 is a Web server, as shown in FIG. 11 of Sweet '278 to store Web pages. Such a Web server 140 as described by Sweet '278 is **not** intended, does **not** operate and cannot possibly be interpreted by anyone, much less one skilled in the art, to "transfer the selected electronic documents from the central server for storage at the e-book server in an e-book format" as alleged by the Examiner.

Third, on page 9 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7), and in response to Applicants' argument that Sweet '278 does **not** disclose the use of a remote e-book terminal, the Examiner asserts that,

"applicant fails to consider the teaching of Sweet for an e-book terminal [i.e., user's computer 100]. In Sweet's system, an e-book server and e-book terminal are integrated in the same device. Although the e-book terminal in Sweet's system is not separated from the e-book server, it is obvious to the person ...to make any modification without departing from the spirit and scope of the reference of Sweet."

Again, this assertion is simply absurd. Again, there is **no** disclosure anywhere from Sweet '278 of Applicants' claimed "e-book server" connected to a central server, and Applicants' claimed "remote e-book terminal" connected to the "e-book server" to download electronic documents therefrom. As previously discussed, a remote e-book terminal 50, as shown, for example, in FIG. 1 of Applicants' disclosure and defined in Applicants' claims 1-28, refers to a portable device that a user can carry and can access an e-book server 30, via a network, in order to download selected electronic documents in an e-book format.

In contrast to Applicants' claims 1-28, element 100 is a simply a host computer, as shown in FIG. 11 and described on column 8, lines 32-35 of Sweet '278, intended to enable a user to retrieve Web pages stored at a Web server 140 in HTML languages and convert the same into a single PDF file, using a Web page integrator 135, for a visual display on a monitor 140, using a PDF viewer 120. Such a host computer 100 as described by Sweet '278 does **not** store any repository of electronic documents in an e-book format as Applicants' claimed "e-book server" for later downloading to a remote "e-book terminal" on the network. As a result, such a host computer 100 is **not** and cannot be interpreted to read on Applicants' claimed "e-book server" or "remote e-book terminal" much less the combination of Applicants' claimed "e-book server" and Applicants' claimed "remote e-book terminal".

Fourth, on page 9 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7), and in response to Applicants' argument that Sweet '278 does **not** disclose any technique of advancing distribution of electronic reading materials by an e-book server in combination with other discrete components, such as the first network, the second network different

from the first network, the remote e-book terminal, the host terminal, and the central server, the Examiner argues that,

“applicant fails to consider the teaching of Sweet for viewing PDF files [i.e., e-book format] converted by web page integrator from the documents received from web server on user's computer, the user's PDF viewer needs retrieving the required PDF documents from the e-book server even they are sitting in the same device. Thus, Sweet does teach the steps of advancing distributing electronic reading material by an e-book server.”

Again, this assertion is also absurd. As previously explained, there is **no** e-book server and **no** remote, portable e-book terminal disclosed anywhere in the Sweet system. As a result, there is **no** disclosure anywhere in Sweet '278 of Applicants' claimed “electronic book system for advancing distribution of electronic reading material using an electronic book (e-book) server at different locations over different data networks (i.e., private network and public network) in order to improve data access efficiency at the e-book server using an e-book or similar viewing device” as generally defined in each of Applicants' base claims 1, 13 and 21.

Lastly, on pages 9-10 of the final Office Action (Paper No. 7), and in response to Applicants' argument that Sweet '278 and Warnock '064 fail to disclose any “emulation software installed in one of the host computer for emulating the e-book server as a network printer”, the Examiner argues that,

“Warnock teaches the emulation software [i.e., Aldus Personal Press 2.0] installed in the host computer [12 of Fig. 1 in Warnock's system] to emulate the e-book server [i.e., PDF printer driver in Warnock's system] as a network printer for distributing [printing] the PDF document [col. 5, lines 22-30 & 54-62]. Thus, Warnock does teach emulation software installed in one of the host computer for emulating the e-book server as a network printer.”

Again, this assertion is factually incorrect. The cited col. 5, lines 22-30 & 54-62 of Warnock '064 does **not** disclose what the Examiner alleges. Rather, the cited col. 5, lines 22-30 & 54-62 of Warnock '064 refers to a process of creating a document from a source document into a PDF document, more specifically, the ability of a document user or publisher to edit the PDF document and then store the same in a memory device, such as a floppy disk or CD-ROM, or transmit over a network or a modem. Such a PDF document may then be printed, using the Aldus Personal Press 2.0 software.

Again, there is **no** disclosure of Applicants' claimed "emulation software to emulate an e-book server as a network printer" as alleged by the Examiner.

Finally, Applicants note that the Examiner has **not** provided any evidence nor has the Examiner even alleged that the proposed combination of Sweet '278 and Warnock '064, discloses key features of Applicants' dependent claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-28 which depend from base claims 1, 13 and 21, as outlined herein. As a result, Applicants believe that claims 2-12, 14-20 and 22-28 are deemed patentable from base claims 1, 13 and 21.

In view of the foregoing amendments, arguments and remarks, all claims are deemed to be allowable and this application is believed to be in condition to be passed to issue. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicants' attorney at the Washington DC area office at (703) 312-6600.

INTERVIEW:

In the interest of expediting prosecution of the present application, Applicants respectfully request that an Examiner interview be scheduled and conducted. In

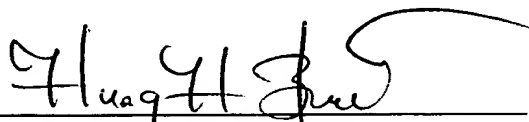
accordance with such interview request, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner, after review of the present Amendment, contact the undersigned local Washington, D.C. area attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number (703) 312-6600 for scheduling an Examiner interview, or alternatively, refrain from issuing a further action in the above-identified application as the undersigned attorneys will be telephoning the Examiner shortly after the filing date of this Amendment in order to schedule an Examiner interview. Applicants thank the Examiner in advance for such considerations. In the event that this Amendment, in and of itself, is sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance, no Examiner interview may be necessary.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, No. 01-2135 (Application No. 0171.37310X00), and please credit any excess fees to said deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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